CLAIMS

1.   A method of embedding voice data in a computing system, the method
comprising:

detecting a record event;

detecting if a software application currently running on the computing system is

voice-aware;

if the software application is voice-aware, embedding the voice data within

associated data in the software application; and

if the application is not voice-aware, triggering a voice note application to record

and store the voice data.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein detecting a record event comprises
detecting activation of a hardware record button.

3.   A method according to claim 1 wherein detecting a record event comprises
detecting activation of a software record button.

4.   A method according to claim 1 wherein detecting if a software application
comprises detecting if a top-level software application is voice-aware.

5.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

after said act of detecting a record event, recording voice data.

6.   A method according to claim 5 further comprising:

after said act of recording, buffering voice data.

7.   A method according to claim 5 further comprising:

after said act of recording voice data, detecting whether a memory size of the voice data

exceeds a maximum memory size.

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8.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

before said act of detecting if a software application, detecting whether the record event

was a power-up event; if the event was a power-up event, triggering a voice note

application to record and store the voice data; and if the event was not a power-up event

5   detecting if a software application currently running on the computing system is voice-

aware.

9.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said act of embedding comprises

providing an indication to the user that a voice note is embedded.

10.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

10   after said act of embedding, locking a connection to the software application.

11.   A method according to claim 10 further comprising:

after said act of locking, communicating a status to the software application.

12.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising:

before said act of embedding, receiving recording specifications from the software

15   application.

13.   A method according to claim 12 further comprising:

after said act of receiving recording specifications, modifying a user interface of the

software application.

14.   A computer program product readable by a computing system and encoding

instructions for a computer process for embedding a voice note in a computing system,

the computer process comprising:

  detecting a user activating a record button;

5 detecting if a software application currently active on the computing system is

  voice-aware;

  if the software application is voice-aware, embedding the voice note within

  associated data in the software application; and

  if the application is not voice-aware, triggering a voice note application to record

10 and store the voice note.

15.   A computer process according to claim 14 wherein detecting a user comprises

detecting activation of a hardware record button.

16.   A computer process according to claim 14 wherein detecting a user comprises

detecting activation of a software record button.

15 17.   A computer process according to claim 14 wherein detecting if a software

application comprises detecting if a top-level software application is voice-aware.

18.   A computer process according to claim 14 further comprising:

after said act of detecting a user, recording voice data.

19.   A computer process according to claim 18 further comprising:

20 after said act of recording, buffering the voice data.

20.   A computer process according to claim 18 further comprising:

after said act of recording voice data, detecting whether a memory size of the voice data

exceeds a maximum memory size.

21. A computer process according to claim 14 further comprising:

before said act of detecting if a software application, detecting whether the activating of

a record button was a power-up event; if the event was a power-up event, triggering a

voice note application to record and store the voice note; and if the event was not a

5   power-up event detecting if a software application currently active on the computing

system is voice-aware.

22. A computer process according to claim 14 wherein said act of embedding

comprises providing an indication to the user that the voice note is embedded.

23. A computer process according to claim 14 further comprising:

10   after said act of embedding, locking a connection to the software application.

24. A computer process according to claim 23 further comprising:

after said act of locking, communicating a status to the software application.

25. A computer process according to claim 14 further comprising:

before said act of embedding, receiving recording specifications from the software

15   application.

26. A computer process according to claim 25 further comprising:

after said act of receiving recording specifications, modifying a user interface of the

software application.

27.   A system for embedding voice data in a computing system, the system comprising:

    a detect module that detects a record event;

    a top-level module that detects if a software application currently running on the

computing system is voice-aware;

    an embed module that embeds the voice data within associated data in the

software application, if the software application is voice-aware; and

    a trigger module that triggers a voice note application to record and store the

voice data, if the application is not voice-aware.

28.   A system according to claim 27 wherein the detect module detects activation of

a hardware record button.

29.   A system according to claim 27 wherein the detect module detects activation of

a software record button.

30.   A system according to claim 27 wherein the top-level module detects if a top-

level software application is voice-aware.

31.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

a record module that records voice data.

32.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

a buffer module that buffers voice data.

33.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

a size module that detects whether a memory size of the voice data exceeds a maximum

memory size.

34.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

a power-up module that detects whether the record event was a power-up event; if the

event was a power-up event, the power-up module triggers a voice note application to

record and store the voice data.

5   35.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

an icon module that provides an indication to the user that a voice note is embedded.

36.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

a lock module that locks a connection to the software application.

37.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

10   a communication module that communicates a status to the software application.

38.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

a specifications module that receives recording specifications from the software

application.

39.   A system according to claim 27 further comprising:

15   a modify module that modifies a user interface of the software application.

40.   A method in a computing system for modifying a user interface displayed on a
display device, the method comprising:

receiving an indication from the computing device to modify the user interface;

displaying an identification block;

displaying a record toolbar;

displaying a note pad; and

displaying a note tab.

41.   A method according to claim 40, wherein the step of displaying an identification
block includes displaying information regarding a currently running application in the
identification block.

42.   A method according to claim 40, wherein the step of displaying a record toolbar
includes displaying a record button, a stop button, a play button, a fast forward button,
and a rewind button.

43.   A method according to claim 42, wherein the step of displaying a record toolbar
further includes displaying a status bar indicating a relative length of a recording.

44.   A method according to claim 41, wherein the step of displaying a note pad
includes displaying both text data and an icon referring to an embedded voice note.

45.   A method according to claim 41, wherein the step of displaying a note tab
includes displaying a note tab to provide an indication to a user that the user is in a
record portion of a currently running application.

46. A display device having rendered thereon a user interface for displaying an embedded voice note, comprising:

an identification block;

a record tool bar;

a note pad; and

a note tab.

47. A display device according to claim 46, wherein the identification block includes information regarding a currently running application.

48. A display device according to claim 46, the record tool bar includes a record button, a stop button, a play button, a fast forward button, and a rewind button.

49. A display device according to claim 48, wherein the record toolbar further includes a status bar indicating a relative length of a recording.

50. A display device according to claim 46, wherein the note pad includes both text data and an icon referring to an embedded voice note.

51. A display device according to claim 46, wherein the note tab includes an indication to a user that the user is in a record portion of a currently running application.